

Georgia State Board of Funeral Service

Board Meeting

October 5, 2012

A meeting of the Georgia State Board of Funeral Service was held on October 5, 2012 via Teleconference. Chairman Thelon Hamby called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

A quorum was established with members present being: Chairman Thelon Hamby, David Roach, Michael Fowler, Terry Daviston, Bryant Hightower and Nancy Kennedy, the Consumer Member Representative.

Others present, via Teleconference, were as follows: Steve Lindsey, Executive Director, Reagan Dean, Assistant Attorney General and Grechelle Blocker, Board Support Specialist.

Executive Session:

Terry Daviston moved to enter into Executive Session to deliberate on applications, complaints, and investigations, as authorized by O.C.G.A. § 43-1-2 (k) and 43-1-19 (h). Michael Fowler seconded the motion. The motion was carried by Thelon Hamby, Chairman; Michael Fowler, David Roach, Bryant Hightower, Terry Daviston and Nancy Kennedy. The Board concluded Executive Session in order to vote on the matters discussed and to continue with the public session.

Applications:

David Roach moved, Terry Daviston seconded, and the Board voted to deny the following application for a change of Funeral Director in Full & Continuous Charge:

- 1785709

David Roach moved, Terry Daviston seconded, and the Board voted to deny the following application for a change of name:

- 1785712

Michael Fowler moved, David Roach seconded, and the Board voted to issue an Order of Summary Suspension on the Funeral Establishment and Crematory, to contact Vital Records with a case report of outstanding Death Certificates and advice on how to proceed with the matter on the following cases, and to forward the investigative findings to the GA Dept of Revenue:

- FUN130017
- FUN130022
- FUN130035
- FUN130036

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Terry Daviston moved, David Roach seconded, and the Board voted to refer a memo to the Attorney General's office for advice on provisions of the following bill concerning Preneed contracts:

- House Bill 933

Other Business:

Two newspaper articles were brought to the attention to the board members of the Georgia State Board of Funeral Service. One was from the Atlanta Journal Constitution dated Sept. 29, 2012 with the headline, "Conyers crematory license owner's license suspended," and, one was from the Rockdale Citizen dated Sept. 27, 2012 with the headline, "Funeral director's licenses suspended." The Atlanta Journal Constitution article stated, "...it was not uncommon for crematories to dismember bodies too large to accommodate." The Rockdale Citizen article stated "...the CPD investigation showed that dismembering a body prior to cremation is an accepted practice in the crematory business."

David Roach moved, Nancy Kennedy seconded, and the Board members voted unanimously to officially adopt the following statement:

The board feels it is NOT a common , nor is it an accepted practice to dismember deceased human bodies prior to a cremation, and that such action would be considered a violation of OCGA 43-18-46(27), because, in the opinion of the board members, dismemberment of a dead human body is unprofessional, immoral, unethical, deleterious, and does not conform to the minimum reasonable standards of acceptable and prevailing practice of funeral services, which would include cremation.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:16 a.m.

The next meeting of the Board will be on Tuesday, October 16, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.